THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). Under the Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) Project being implemented since 1984-85, 2598 secondary/higher secondary schools including 325 Kendriya Vidyalayas have been selected upto 1989-90. No new school has been selected under the project since 1990-91. Each school selected under the project is given five BBC Micro Computers with the object of providing 'hands on' experience to secondary school students and familiarising them with computer technology. An expenditure of Rs. 3834.25 lakhs has been incurred on the project upto 1990-91.

Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti has introduced Computer Literacy Programmes in 73 vidyalayas in the first phase with an estimated cost of Rs. 123 lakhs per annum.

Central assistance under the Scheme of 'Thrust Areas of Technical Education' has been provided to Engineering Colleges/ Technical Institutions for development of computer faciilities and computer related activities such as computer scheme/technology, Computer Aided Design/Computer Aided Manufacture (CAD/CAM), Robotics and Artificial Intelligence and Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM). During the VIIth Plan, 194 projects to the tune of Rs. 25.40 crores were sanctioned by the Government. During 1990-91, 38 projects have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 3.72 crores. Also, a sum of Rs. 7.95 crores was released to 255 Polytechnics for purchase of 'O' level computers during theVIIth Plan.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has provided financial assistance of Rs. 6.83 crores to 790 colleges for development of computer facilities during the VIIth Plan. Depending on availability of resources, the Commission proposes to provide financial assistance to 1000 more colleges during the VIIIth Plan. The UGC provides assistance to Universities for acquisition of computers as and when such proposals are received and subjects to availability of funds. It is, therefore, not possible to name the Universities which may avail of assistanc during the VIIIth Plan.

Reclamaton of Degraded Forest Land

3024. SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fomulated a new policy to involve village communities and voluntary agencies for reclamation of degraded forest land; and

(b) if so, the details of the policy and the steps being taken for the implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The Government of India have issued guidelines to all State Governments that village communities and voluntary agencies should be involved in regeneration of degraded forest lands on sharing of usufruct and final harvest. Based on these guidelines, the states of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, and Rajasthan have formulated specific scheme for active involvement of people in afforestation programme. Other State Governments have been urged to take similar action.

Afforestation Programme

3025. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have

worked out a plan to double the afforestation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas earmarked for this purpose;

(c) whether the National Wastelands Development Board has released funds for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMWNT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d). During the Seventh Five Year Plan (1985-90), the total area coverage in all States and Union Territories through afforestation/tree planting activities under the 20-Point Programme was about 8.8 million hectares. This programme is proposed to be substantially expanded during the Eighth Five Year Plan, which is under finalisation.

Effects of Sariska Mining on Environment

3026. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT *AND FORESTS be pleased to state:*

(a) whether the mining work in Sariska, Rajasthan has adverse effects on environment; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to protect wild life in Sariska?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter pertaining to stoppage of mining activaities in Sariska is the subject mtter of a writ petition in the Supreme Court of India. Intensive patrolling is being done by the staff to provide protection to wild life under the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Electrification of Mughal Sarai-Patna-Asansol Line

3027. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
SHRI SURYA NARAIN YADAV:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to electrify Mughal Sarai-Patna-Asansol railway line;

(b) if so,the estimated cost, funds allotted and the time by which work on the project is likely to be started; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Electrification of Asansol-Sitarampur section has already been completed. Electrification of Mughalsarai-Patna-Sitarampur section is an approved work. Electrification of Sitarampur-Jhajha Section, a portion of Mughalsarai-Sitarampur section, will be taken up as first phase, the cost of which has been estimated at Rs. 55.2. crores.

Further extension beyond Jhajha to Mughalsarai will depend upon availability of resources and relative priorities for electrification of other high density routes.